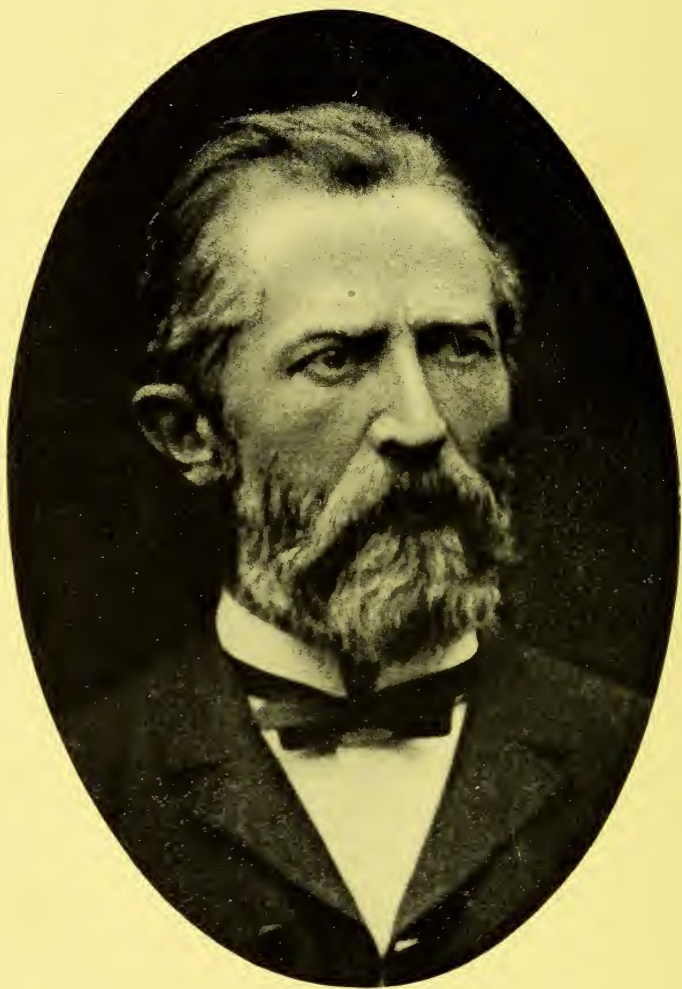


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ANTON DE BARY

ERWIN F. SMITH

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ANTON DE BARY

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(WITH PORTRAIT, PLATE I.)

Of all the personalities contributing to the advancement of plant pathology from its crude beginnings to the present time, none has been more interesting than that of De Bary, none more productive of important results. It is fitting, therefore, that his portrait should appear in the first issue of a new journal of plant pathology, the first journal of its kind to be published in America. May it be indicative not only of the breadth and inclusiveness of the new journal, but also of its standard of excellence.

De Bary was born in January 1831 at Frankfurt am Main. He became interested in botany while he was yet a student in the Gymnasium. He graduated from the Gymnasium in 1848 and as Doctor of Medicine in Berlin in 1853. He practiced for a few months in Frankfurt and then abandoned medicine for research in botany. He began as privat docent in Tübingen in December, 1853. Two years later he became Nägeli's successor in Freiburg, first as *ausserordentlich*, and then (1859) as *ordentlich* professor, where he remained until 1867. That year he refused a call to Leipzig and accepted one to Halle in Schlechtendal's place. In 1872 he was called to the University of Strassburg, where he held the chair of botany until his death in January, 1888.

The photograph was taken in 1887, and represents him in the full maturity of his powers.

De Bary attracted to his laboratory students from all parts of the world, and through a long series of years, commencing in 1852, he contributed in rapid succession a series of monographs on algae, fungi, myxomycetes, bacteria, and higher plants, in which biological adaptations were always kept in mind, and in which profound thought rivaled clear expression and admirable delineation in forcing home conviction. At the same time this wonderful man found opportunity to write difficult books covering whole fields of knowledge, to edit the

Botanische Zeitung, the leading botanical journal of his time, to carry on correspondence, write reviews, give lectures, do administrative work, and keep everybody who came within his reach, by tongue or pen or printed page, stirred up and stimulated to do his best. Dying at 57 he left an impress on his generation distinctly peculiar. No less than 68 men afterwards distinguished in science studied under him at Strassburg. His work and that of his students put plant pathology on a new foundation, and he also, undoubtedly, had much influence on human and animal pathology, since his very successful infection experiments with fungi on plants suggested many things to those who were trying to determine the cause of human and animal plagues. DeBary's work cleared the way for all that has followed in plant pathology, and we must ever think and speak of him with that reverence due to a great master.

WASHINGTON, D. C.



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